

Development of the NOVA-BOVA Cooperation

STATEMENTS and RECOMMENDATIONS as a basis for decisions at NOVA and BOVA Rector Boards

On April 22, 2005 NOVA-BOVA planning group consisting endorsed the following statements and recommendations that can serve as a basis for discussions at the upcoming NOVA and BOVA Rector board meetings:

1. The planning group fully endorses the statements and conclusions of the external NOVA-BOVA evaluation and recommend them as material for discussion for NOVA and BOVA boards.
2. The NOVA-BOVA cooperation has provided significant added values for member universities, particularly in the form of international networks that are gained by students as an ultimate outcome of the joint activities. The cooperation should be continued and strengthened.
3. BOVA became a stronger partner in the network but a clear vision is lacking for the BOVA University as well as NOVA-BOVA network. BOVA intends to produce a strategy in near future. NOVA and BOVA boards could then consider in what form do they wish to formulate a common NOVA-BOVA vision.
4. NOVA-BOVA should focus cooperation on those activities where the best results have been achieved, i.e. intensive courses at MSc and PhD level. The network should further concentrate its resources on the most promising subject areas and activities. Development of joint MSc programmes is of particular strategic importance.
5. NOVA-BOVA may also consider collaboration in research. Networks between Nordic and Baltic researchers could be promoted through arrangement of NOVA PhD courses in the Baltic countries and arrangement of joint courses for the academic staff.
6. The network should advance external relations in the Nordic and Baltic countries. The BOVA member universities should make extra effort to access the relevant national ministries in order to promote the network and seek for the national funds.
7. NOVA-BOVA should be open for partnerships with universities from countries outside the network on the project basis. The readiness for cooperation should be clearly expressed in the NOVA-BOVA policy documents.
8. External funds should be raised continuously to support NOVA-BOVA activities and to maintain the position of the NOVA-BOVA coordinator. The expectations for external funds should be linked to the available fund rising capacity at the central secretariats and the member universities.
9. The Baltic side has recently created the BOVA Coordination Committee. NOVA KUF and BOVA CC could be linked to bridge the strategic (Rector) and operational (secretariat) levels of NOVA-BOVA coordination. BOVA side will consider the possibilities of establishing a full- or part-time position of the BOVA Rector.
10. It is recommended to maintain a NOVA-BOVA planning group of 6-8 people that would include representatives of the most important BOVA bodies but be small enough to ensure efficient discussions leading to suggestions for decision-making bodies.